

PROCEEDINGS
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THE STATUS OF THE GENERIC NAME *HEMIPROCNE*
NITZSCH.

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The generic name *Hemiprocne* Nitzsch is commonly considered to date from this author's "Pterylographie," 1840, pp. 31, 123, but it was first proposed eleven years before in an anatomical paper usually overlooked (Observ. Av. Arter. Carot. Com., 1829, p. 15), in the main text and its accompanying footnote, after the following fashion:

"3. *Macrochires* (S. longimanae) in duas dividendae tribus, quarum una continentur Trochili, altera Cypseli et Hemiprocnis N. ^h) genera. Hae aves itidem dextra arteria carot. communi semper carere videntur."

"^h) Hemiprocnis genus, cui Cypselos, qui ill. TEMMINCKIO longipennis, comatus, fuciphagus, torquatus vocantur, aliosque accensio, a veris discrepant Cypselis et hallice sive digito pedum primo retrorsum semper verso, et digitorum phalangum numero eodem, qui in ceteris avibus sollemnis est."

Although in this place, as will be noticed, the word occurs in the nominative plural to conform to the Latin construction of the sentence, the author's intent is clear, particularly in light of his use of the name in the singular form *Hemiprocne* a few years afterward in his "Pterylographia Avium, pars prior," 1833, page 21,—though here without diagnosis or mention of any species,—and still later (Pterylographie, 1840, pp. 31, 123) when he gives a formal diagnosis and includes the species *Hirundo zonaris* Shaw and *Hirundo acuta* Wied (= *Chaetura cinereiventris* Selater).

Meanwhile, however, a little-known author in a forgotten book (Riemann, Zoolog.-technol. Leitfaden für Realschulen und



Gymnasien, 1838, p. 34) made use of the name as follows, for which quotation I am indebted to Dr. Charles W. Richmond:

“*Hemiprocne*.—Salange. Die vorigen Gattung ähnlich, aber mit gewöhnlicher Gliederung und Richtung der Zehen. *H. esculenta*, die indianische Schwalbe.”

By taking the term *Hemiprocne* from Nitzsch, 1840⁵, the type has been fixed as *Hirundo zonaris* Shaw; but this disposition of the name can not stand, as may readily be seen by the above references. If the earlier (1829) Nitzsch diagnosis be ignored, the name will date from Riemann, 1838, and must displace *Collocalia*; but there is no sufficient reason for rejecting *Hemiprocne* as proposed by Nitzsch in 1829 (*loc. cit.*) since it was then properly introduced into nomenclature. The species originally included are now called *Macropteryx longipennis*, *Macropteryx comatus*, *Collocalia fuciphaga*, and probably *Hemiprocne zonaris*, respectively. The last appears as “*torquatus*,” a name apparently to be referred to the present *Hemiprocne zonaris*, but here a nomen nudum and therefore not to be used in this connection. Of the three others, the first one mentioned, *Hirundo longipennis* of Rafinesque (*Cypselus longipennis* Temminck), should be considered the type. The name *Hemiprocne* must therefore unfortunately supplant the later *Macropteryx* Swainson* and the family name MACROPTERYGIDAE be changed to HEMI-PROCNIDAE. The following species of this group are affected, and should henceforth stand as follows:

Hemiprocne coronata (TICKELL).

Hemiprocne longipennis (RAFINESQUE).

Hemiprocne perlonga (RICHMOND).

Hemiprocne wallacei (GOULD).

Hemiprocne mystacea mystacea (LESSON).

Hemiprocne mystacea woodfordiana (HARTERT).

Hemiprocne comata comata (TEMMINCK).

Hemiprocne comata major (HARTERT).

The genus of large collared swifts that commonly has been called *Hemiprocne* must, if generically separable from *Chaetura*, consequently be given a new name. Doctor Hartert in his most recent review of the swifts,† placed *Hemiprocne* as a synonym under *Chaetura*, claiming that the shape of the tail was not

* Zool. Illust. 11, 1832, pl. 47 (type, *Hirundo longipennis* Rafinesque).

† Tierreich, I, 1897, p. 71.

sufficient for its recognition as a different genus. However valid such a claim may be,—and it seems not to be so in this case,—there can be now no doubt of the propriety of generically segregating the group of swifts of which *Hirundo zonaris* Shaw may be considered the representative, because aside from its emarginate instead of square or rounded tail, it differs remarkably from *Chaetura* in the arrangement of the deep plantar tendons. Mr. F. A. Lucas has recently shown* that in *Hemiprocne zonaris*, the muscle which ordinarily flexes the front toes, the *flexor perforans*, instead of having its own tendon as is usual in the swifts, is attached to the muscle of the hallux, the *flexor longus hallucis*, and their common single tendon by means of four slips ultimately reaches and manipulates all the digits.

In view of all the above facts it seems proper to provide this group with a generic name, and **Streptoprocne**, from *στρεπτός*, *torquis*, and *Πρόκνη*, *Progne*, with *Hirundo zonaris* Shaw as the type, is suggested as appropriate. The species will therefore stand as follows :

Streptoprocne zonaris zonaris (Shaw).

Streptoprocne zonaris albicincta (Cabanis).

Streptoprocne zonaris pallidifrons (Hartert).

Streptoprocne biscutata (Sclater).

Streptoprocne semicollaris (Saussure).

* Auk, 1899, pp. 77-78.